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PLASTIC MAN

CREATED BY: Jack Cole

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...WHO WAS ABOUT TO BE STABBED WITH THE BIZARRE PROSTHETIC "HAND" OF THE MANIACAL MURDERER KNOWN AS "THE TROWEL"!
MEANWHILE, PLAS'S PORTLY PARTNER WOOZY WINKS WAS TEETERING ON THE BRINK OF DESTRUCTION (AND HIS SANITY) --WEIGHING THE UNHAPPY CHOICE OFFERED TO HIM BY THE MAN CALLED BRICKFACE:
NOW EITHER YA TELL ME WHY YA WERE SHPYIN' ON ME...
...OR YA TAKE THE FASHT WAY DOWN--47 SHTORIES!

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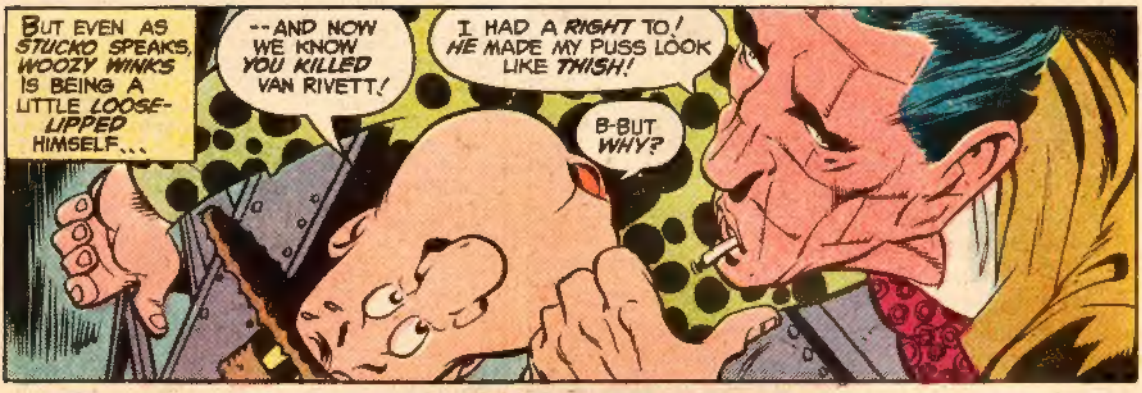
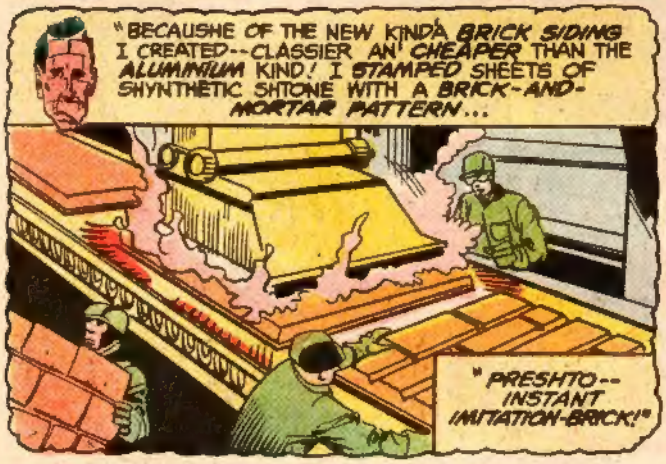
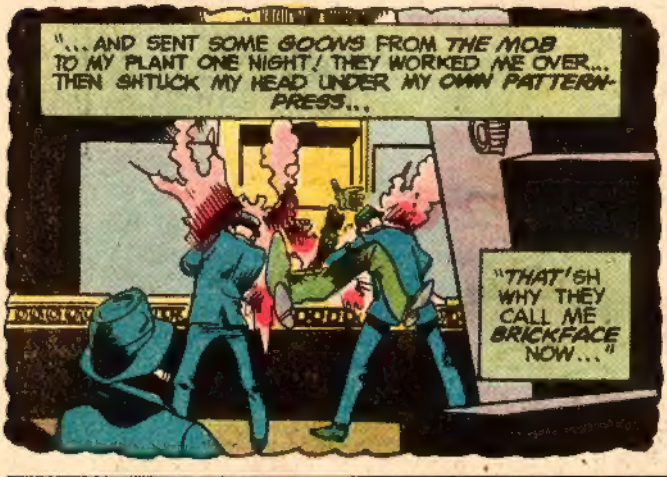
OKAY, FATSHTUFF-- LASHT CHANCE! SPILL IT!
N-N-N-N-NO WAY! A GOOD AGENT NEVER BETRAYS HIS B-B-BOSS!
AWRIGHT, PALLY-- IF THAT'SH THE WAY YA WANNA PLAY IT...
SMAPP!
YOOWW
YAAAHH
ON 5-SECOND THOUGHT... WH-WHAT'S THE H-HARM IN A LITTLE I-INFORMATION?
SHWELL, I KNEW YA'D SEE THINGSH MY WAY!
YEAH? Y-YA MEAN EVERYTHIN'S UPSIDE-DOWN AN' SPINNIN' AROUND FOR YOU, TOO?
ANYWAY... I WAS WORKIN' ON THE CASE WITH PLASTIC MAN, SEE?...
PLASHTIC MAN, HUH? OF ALL THE ROTTEN LUCK--!
IT ALL STARTED AFTER PLAS HELPED DEMOLISH THE OL' BENET TOWNHOUSE IN THE SOTHEBY PARK DISTRICT...
"WHEN THE IMITATION-BRICK SIDING CAME AWAY FROM THE FRONT WALL, SOMETHIN' FELL OUT!...
LOOKS LIKE A PLASTIC BAG-- CONTAINING A BODY--!
--"THE BODY OF ALONZO VAN RIVETT, A BUILDIN' CONTRACTOR WHO'D BEEN MISSIN' FOR TWO YEARS!"
THE N.B.I.* FOUND OUT THAT THE FALSE BRICK FRONT WAS INSTALLED BY YOU--TERRENCE COTTA...
...AN' AFTER THAT, YOU DISAPPEARED! THAT WAS TWO YEARS AGO, TOO...
* NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION: PLAS WORKS FOR IT AND WOOZY WOULD LIKE TO! --LEN
2

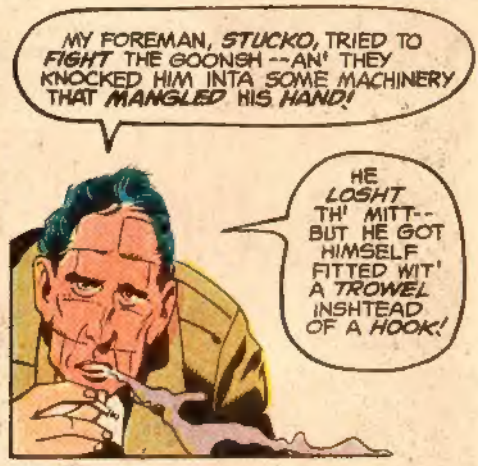
CITY DUMP
...AND SINCE COTTA WAS HIMSELF A BUILDING CONTRACTOR -- AND VAN RIVETT'S CHIEF COMPETITOR...
...IT WAS LOGICAL TO SUSPECT THAT COTTA MURDERED VAN RIVETT!
AS IT TURNED OUT, HIS HENCHMAN-- MASON STUCKO-- DID THE DIRTY WORK!
AND I DO MEAN DIRTY! THERE WERE BITS OF DRIED MORTAR IN VAN RIVETT'S WOUNDS-- INDICATING HE'D BEEN STABBED WITH A DIRTY TROWEL!
THE TROWEL ATTACHED TO STUCKO'S WRIST--IN PLACE OF AN ARTIFICIAL HAND-- CONFIRMED MY SUSPICIONS!
WHAT I WANT TO KNOW, MS. BLOCH, IS WHY DID THEY WANT TO KILL YOU?
BECAUSE WHEN I WORKED FOR COTTA, I FOUND OUT ABOUT VAN RIVETT'S MURDER...
...AND I WAS BLACKMAILING COTTA IN EXCHANGE FOR MY SILENCE!
ACME BELL
BUT HE NEVER TRIED TO KILL ME BEFORE TONIGHT, BECAUSE, IF I TURNED UP DEAD...
...MY LAWYER WOULD'VE GIVEN THE COPS A SWORN STATEMENT FINGERING COTTA!
BUT ONCE VAN RIVETT'S BODY TURNED UP...
...COTTA AND STUCKO DECIDED TO FLEE THE COUNTRY-- AND FIGURED THEY HAD NOTHING LEFT TO LOSE BY 86-ING ME!
THANK HEAVEN YOU FOLLOWED STUCKO WHEN HE BROUGHT ME HERE--AND STOPPED HIM!
I COULD'VE DONE A LOT MORE THAN THAT TO HIM...
...AND I STILL MIGHT-- UNLESS HE TELLS ME WHAT COTTA DID WITH WOOZY!
UNDERSTAND, BRIGHT-EYES?
3

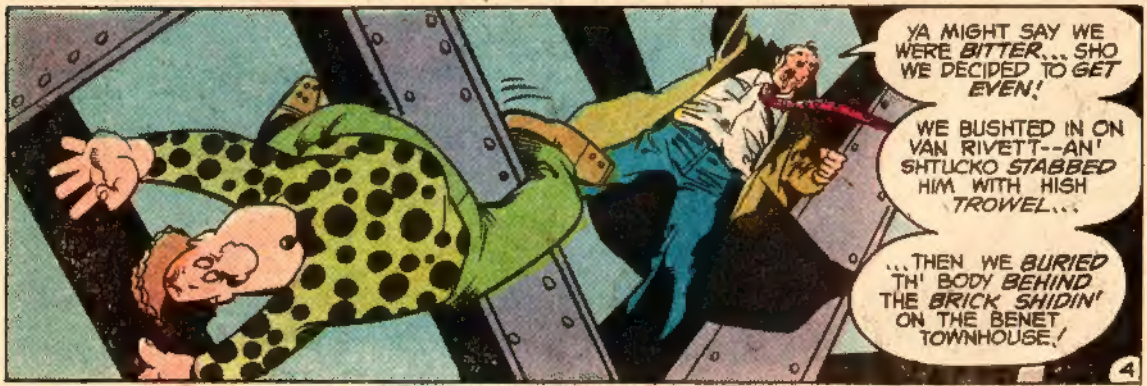

BUT EVEN AS STUCKO SPEAKS, WOOZY WINK'S IS BEING A LITTLE LOOSE-LIPPED HIMSELF...
--AND NOW WE KNOW YOU KILLED VAN RIVETT!
I HAD A RIGHT TO! HE MADE MY PUSS LOOK LIKE THISH!
B-BUT WHY?


"BECAUSHE OF THE NEW KINDA BRICK SIDING I CREATED--CLASSIER AN' CHEAPER THAN THE ALUMMINUM KIND! I STAMPED SHEETS OF SHYNTHETIC SHTONE WITH A BRICK-AND-MORTAR PATTERN...
"PRESHTO--INSTANT IMITATION-BRICK!"

WITH MY PROCESSH, I COULD BUILD HOUSHESH THAT LOOKED JUST LIKE REAL BRICK--AT A FRACTION OF THE COSHT!
I WAS GIVIN' VAN RIVETT SHTIFF COMPETITION--PUTTIN' HIM OUTTA BUSINESS! SO HE GOT TICKED OFF...


"...AND SENT SOME GOONS FROM THE MOB TO MY PLANT ONE NIGHT! THEY WORKED ME OVER... THEN SHTUCK MY HEAD UNDER MY OWN PATTERN-PRESS...
"THAT'SH WHY THEY CALL ME BRICKFACE NOW..."


MY FOREMAN, STUCKO, TRIED TO FIGHT THE GOONSH--AN' THEY KNOCKED HIM INTA SOME MACHINERY THAT MANGLED HIS HAND!
HE LOSHT TH' MITT--BUT HE GOT HIMSELF FITTED WIT' A TROWEL INSHTEAD OF A HOOK!


YA MIGHT SAY WE WERE BITTER... SHO WE DECIDED TO GET EVEN!
WE BUSHTED IN ON VAN RIVETT--AN' SHTUCKO STABBED HIM WITH HISH TROWEL...
...THEN WE BURIED TH' BODY BEHIND THE BRICK SHIDIN' ON THE BENET TOWNHOUSE!

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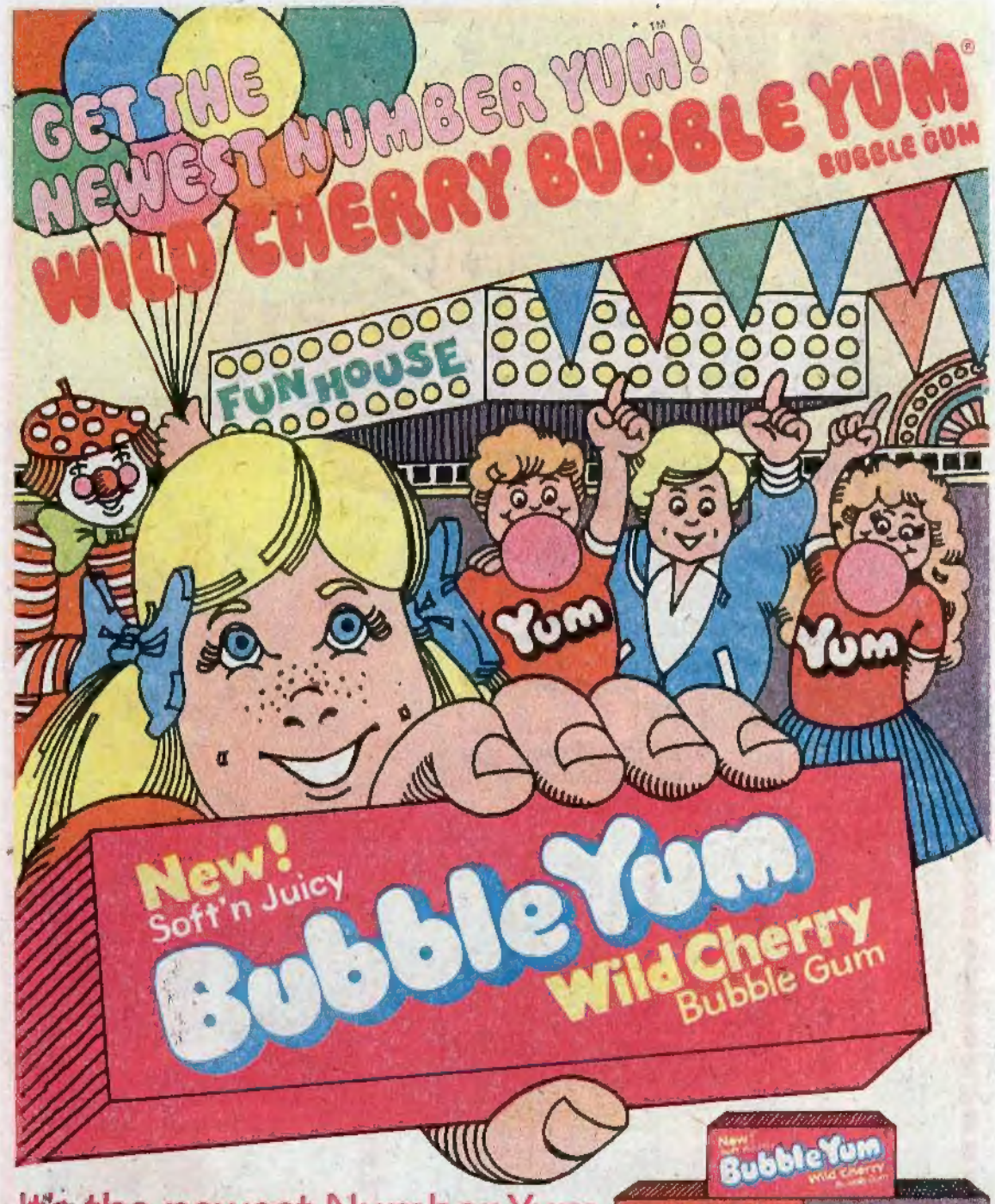

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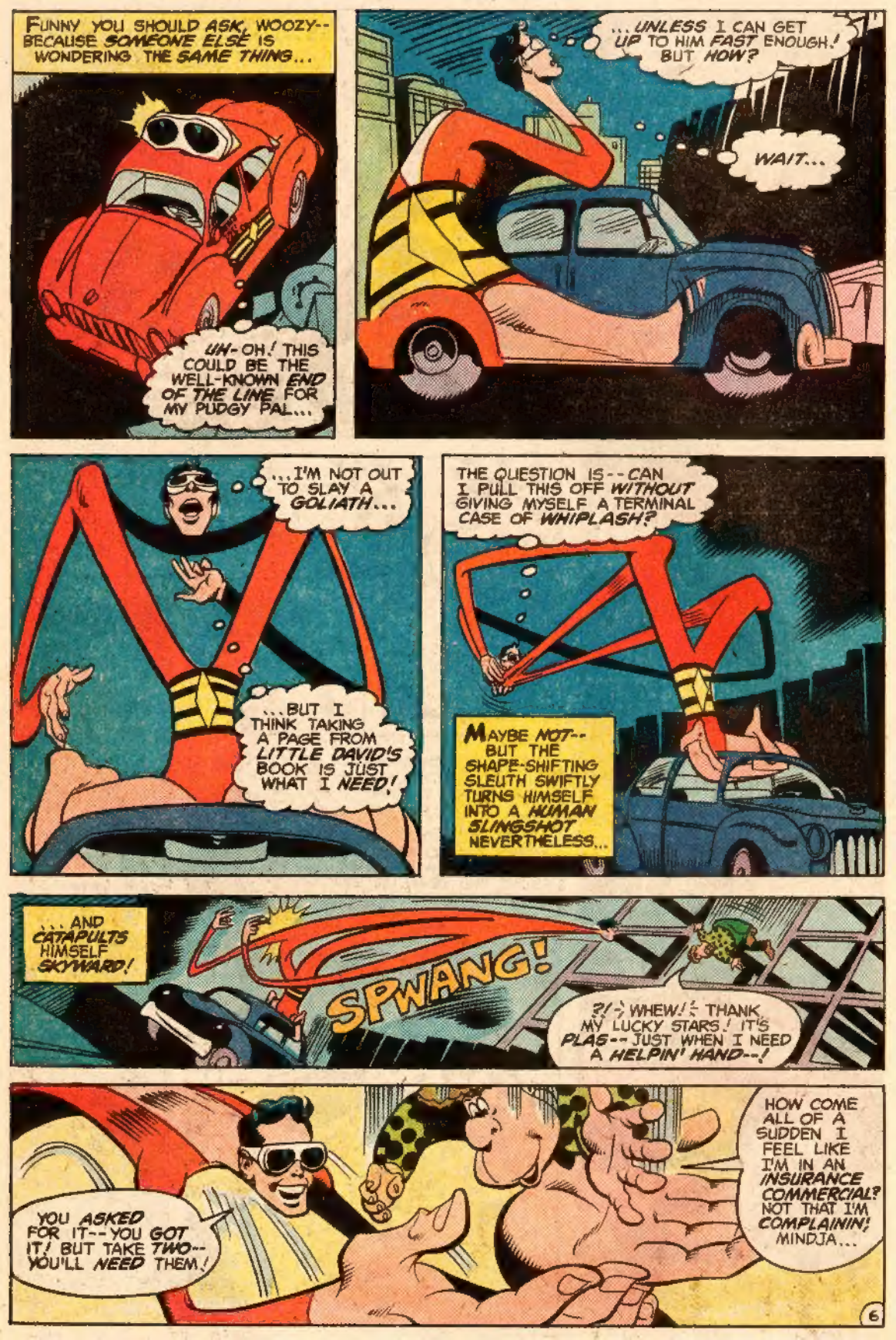
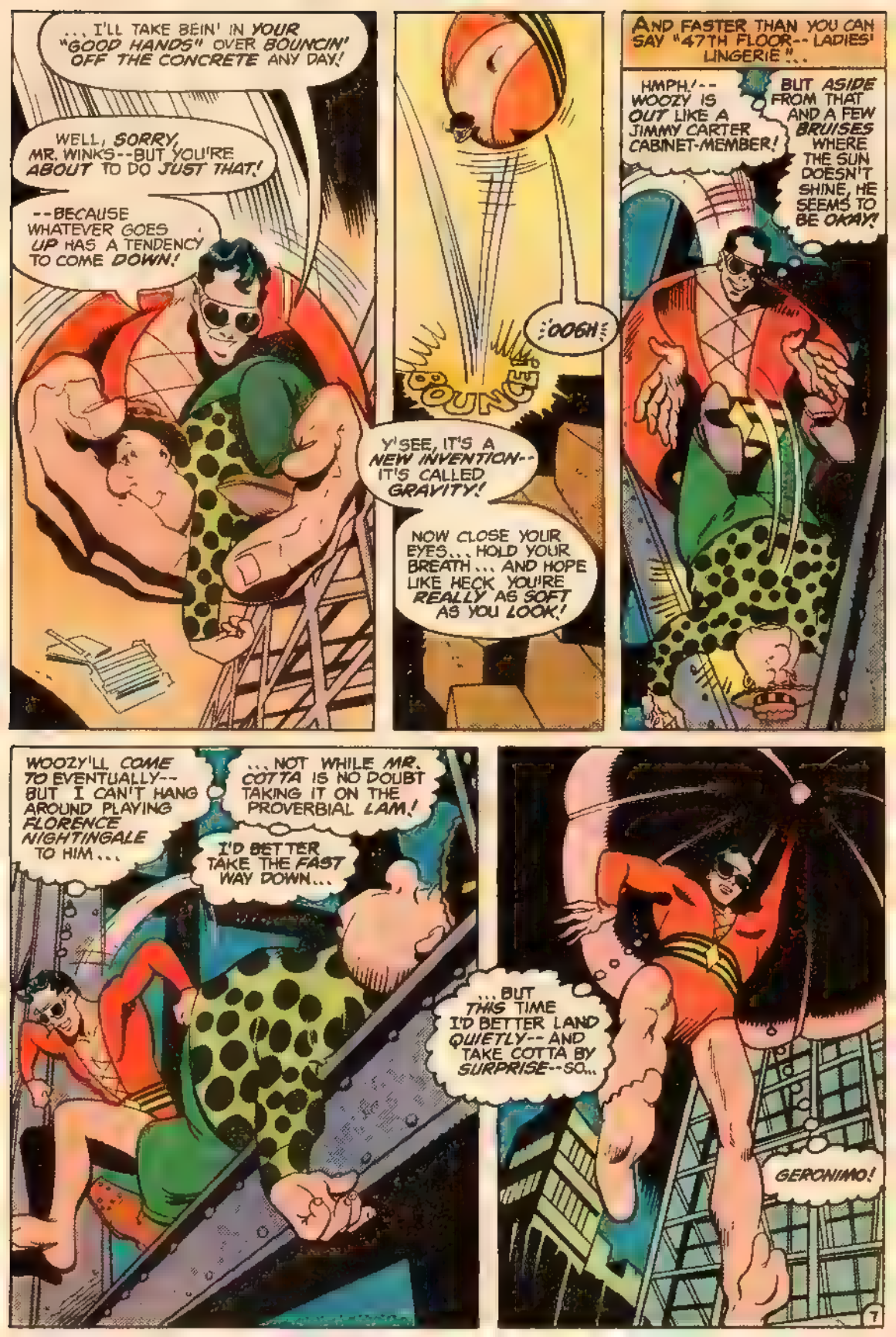
MEANWHILE...
I'VE CALLED THE N.B.I. -- BUT I'LL HAVE TO TIE YOU UP TILL THEY ARRIVE TO TAKE YOU INTO CUSTODY!
ME, TOO?!
SORRY... BUT IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T HEARD, BLACK-MAIL'S AGAINST THE LAW!
AND MEANWHILER STILL...
YA MIGHT AS WELL GIVE UP NOW, BRICKFACE!
BY NOW, PLAS HAS PROBABLY NABBED STUCKO AND SAVED YOUR EX-SECRETARY CINDY BLOCH!
AN' WHAT SHE AN' I KNOW ABOUT YOU IS GONNA PUT YOU AWAY FOR SO LONG...
ACME CONSTRUCTION CO.
...YOU'RE GONNA BE MAKIN' LICENSE PLATES 20 YEARS AMERICA RUNS OUTTA GASOLINE!
YESSIREE, WHEN CINDY AN' ME SING TO A GRAND JURY, YOU'RE GONNA GO UP THE RIVER SO FAR, YOU'LL...
...YOU'LL... YOU'LL...
OOPS.
I WASH WONDERIN' WHEN YA'D CATCH ON, JUNIOR G-MAN.
FORGET ABOUT WHERE I'M GOIN'-- AND SHTART WORRYIN' ABOUT THE TRAVELIN' YOU'RE GONNA DO!
SPUNT
BUT TRAVEL LIGHT --IT'LL BE A SHORT TRIP! HEH-HEH!
AN' NEVER MIND THE TRAVELERS' CHECKSH ...JUST SHAY YER PRAYERS!
MOTHER OF MERCY! IS THIS THE END OF WOOZY?!
B


FUNNY YOU SHOULD ASK, WOOZY--BECAUSE SOMEONE ELSE IS WONDERING THE SAME THING...
UH-OH! THIS COULD BE THE WELL-KNOWN END OF THE LINE FOR MY PUDGY PAL...
...UNLESS I CAN GET UP TO HIM FAST ENOUGH! BUT HOW?
WAIT...
...I'M NOT OUT TO SLAY A GOLIATH...
...BUT I THINK TAKING A PAGE FROM LITTLE DAVID'S BOOK IS JUST WHAT I NEED!
THE QUESTION IS--CAN I PULL THIS OFF WITHOUT GIVING MYSELF A TERMINAL CASE OF WHIPLASH?
MAYBE NOT--BUT THE SHAPE-SHIFTING SLEUTH SWIFTLY TURNS HIMSELF INTO A HUMAN SLINGSHOT NEVERTHELESS...
...AND CATAPULTS HIMSELF SKYWARD!
SPWANG!
?!-WHEW!-THANK MY LUCKY STARS! IT'S PLAS--JUST WHEN I NEED A HELPIN' HAND--!
YOU ASKED FOR IT--YOU GOT IT! BUT TAKE TWO--YOU'LL NEED THEM!
HOW COME ALL OF A SUDDEN I FEEL LIKE I'M IN AN INSURANCE COMMERCIAL? NOT THAT I'M COMPLAININ', MINDJA...
6


...I'LL TAKE BEIN' IN YOUR "GOOD HANDS" OVER BOUNCIN' OFF THE CONCRETE ANY DAY!
WELL, SORRY, MR. WINKS--BUT YOU'RE ABOUT TO DO JUST THAT!
--BECAUSE WHATEVER GOES UP HAS A TENDENCY TO COME DOWN!
BOUNCE
OOGH!
Y'SEE, IT'S A NEW INVENTION--IT'S CALLED GRAVITY!
NOW CLOSE YOUR EYES... HOLD YOUR BREATH... AND HOPE LIKE HECK YOU'RE REALLY AS SOFT AS YOU LOOK!
AND FASTER THAN YOU CAN SAY "47TH FLOOR--LADIES' LINGERIE"...
HMPH!--WOOZY IS OUT LIKE A JIMMY CARTER CABINET-MEMBER!
BUT ASIDE FROM THAT AND A FEW BRUISES WHERE THE SUN DOESN'T SHINE, HE SEEMS TO BE OKAY!
WOOZY'LL COME TO EVENTUALLY--BUT I CAN'T HANG AROUND PLAYING FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE TO HIM...
...NOT WHILE MR. COTTA IS NO DOUBT TAKING IT ON THE PROVERBIAL LAM!
I'D BETTER TAKE THE FAST WAY DOWN...
...BUT THIS TIME I'D BETTER LAND QUIETLY--AND TAKE COTTA BY SURPRISE--SO...
GERONIMO!
7

THAT FAT CLOWN SHAID PLASHTIC MAN WAS ON ME -- BUT I DON'T SEE THAT HUMAN SHLINKY TOY NOWHERES!
:HEH-HEH: LOOKSH LIKE I'M GONNA BEAT THIS RAP AFTER ALL!
SORRY "BRICKFACE" -- BUT I'VE BEEN MAKING PLANS TO SEE THAT YOU DON'T!
IN FACT YOU MIGHT SAY THOSE PLANS HAVE BEEN "AFOOT" FOR SEVERAL MINUTES NOW! HA-HA!
AWP!
NO... NO... NO-- :UNNH:
THUDD!
OKAY, OKAY! I'LL TALK!
I'LL SHIGN A CONFESSION! I'LL SHIGN ANYTHIN'!..
..A WAIVER OF MY RIGHTS... A CONTRACT FOR A LIFETIME SUBSHCRIPTION TO MY WEEKLY READER... ANYTHIN'!
JUST LET ME OUTTA HERE!!
ALL RIGHT-- IF YOU'RE SURE THAT'S WHAT YOU REALLY WANT...
AAARRGH!
SPTUI!
SPLAKK!
8

CONCLUDED ON 3rd PAGE FOLLOWING

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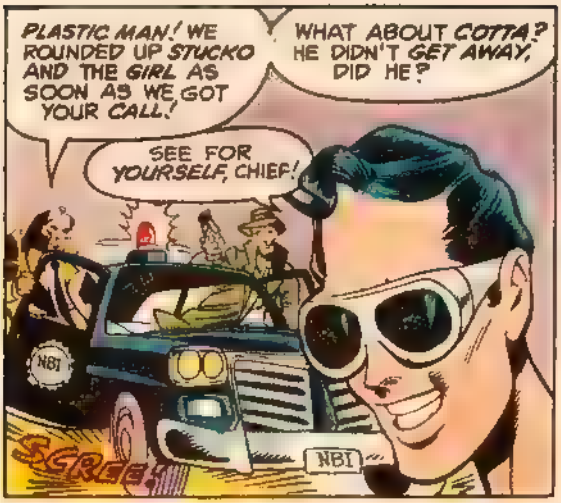
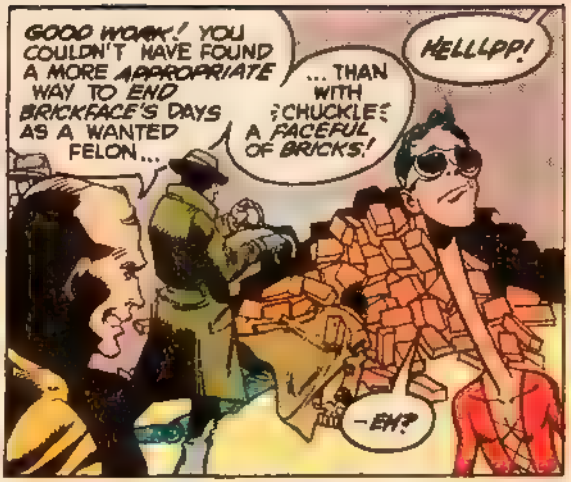
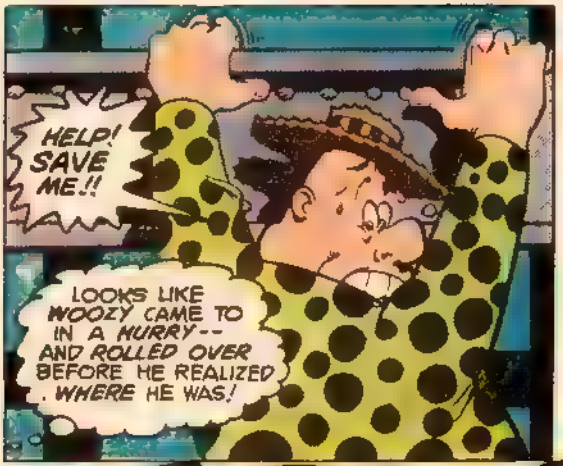
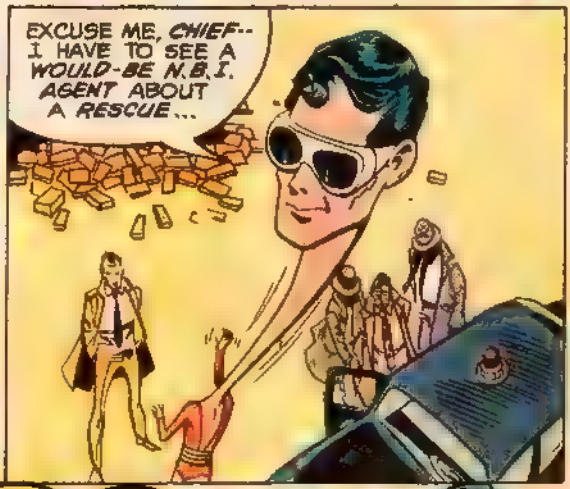

PLASTIC MAN! WE ROUNDED UP STUCKO AND THE GIRL AS SOON AS WE GOT YOUR CALL!
WHAT ABOUT COTTA? HE DIDN'T GET AWAY, DID HE?
SEE FOR YOURSELF, CHIEF!
NBI
NBI
SCREE!

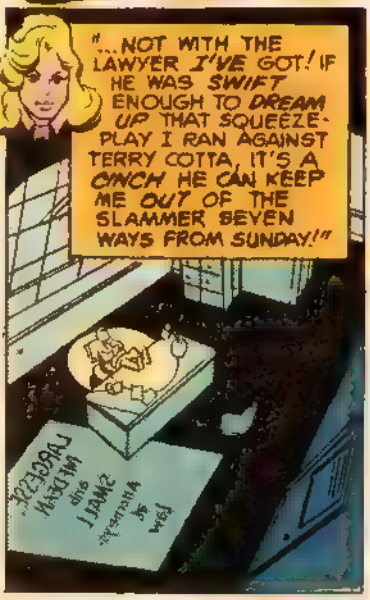

GOOD WORK! YOU COULDN'T HAVE FOUND A MORE APPROPRIATE WAY TO END BRICKFACE'S DAYS AS A WANTED FELON...
... THAN WITH CHUCKLE A FACEFUL OF BRICKS!
HELLLPP!
-EH?


HELP! SAVE ME!!
LOOKS LIKE WOOZY CAME TO IN A HURRY -- AND ROLLED OVER BEFORE HE REALIZED WHERE HE WAS!


EXCUSE ME, CHIEF-- I HAVE TO SEE A WOULD-BE N.B.I. AGENT ABOUT A RESCUE...

EPILOGUE

AS CINDY BLOCK IS TAKEN TO HEADQUARTERS...
LET 'EM THROW THE BOOK AT ME -- THERE'S NO WAY I'LL DO A MINUTE'S TIME FOR EXTORTION!
I PROBABLY WON'T EVEN HAVE TO PLEA-BARGAIN WITH THE D.A....


"...NOT WITH THE LAWYER I'VE GOT! IF HE WAS SWIFT ENOUGH TO DREAM UP THAT SQUEEZE-PLAY I RAN AGAINST TERRY COTTA, IT'S A CINCH HE CAN KEEP ME OUT OF THE SLAMMER SEVEN WAYS FROM SUNDAY!"

"YEAH, CINDY, OLD GIRL, YOU'RE HOME FREE -- AS LONG AS THE SHYSTER IN YOUR CORNER IS...
"...I.Q. SMALL, ALIAS LOWBROW!"
TO BE (SHUDDER) CONTINUED...

DATELINE: ADVENTURE

Dear Adventurers

Adventure Comics #467 was outstanding! The return of Plastic Man and the first appearance of Starman is just what this mag was looking for.

I've always enjoyed the Jack Cole Plastic Man, because Plas, to me, works best in humorous situations. When DC gave the Stretchable Sleuth his own book it just couldn't go right. His Brave and Bold and Justice League appearances were good, but they weren't the original Plastic Man. The character in Adventure #467 was the original Plastic Man; I could have easily mistaken it for Jack Cole's.

Len Wein, man, you're the greatest! There are so many things I can say about the latest version of Plastic Man, but they would be too numerous. I can say, though, that getting Joe Staton to do the art was sheer genius. Unlike what Ramona Fradon attempted, Staton drawa the Shape-Shifter more in the line of a Jack Cole version with Dick Giordano inks. Everything was just absolutely stunning!

Starman, on the other hand, left me with mixed emotions. I was expecting an interstellar type hero in the likes of Marvel Comics' Captain Marvel—you know, laser beams, intelligent alien villains, all that serious stuff. But leave it to Paul Levitz to change all that.

Starman is sort of humorous, but still maintains a light drama. Had I not known that this was a DC comic, I would have thought this story to be written for one of Charlton Comics' mags. Given a little more time, Starman should shape up. (Oh yeah! Ditko and Tanghal were terrific!)

I'll look forward to many wondrous issues to come like this!

Chris Khalaf
5126 Georgi Lane
Houston, Tx. 77092

As close to charter members of the Jack Cole fan club, we're happy you think we're living up to his indelible and awesome achievements. But we're confused by Starman seeming to be humorous—though not by your Charlton reference, as perhaps our answer to our next correspondent will make clear.

• • • • •

Dear Sirs

After looking over your new Plastic Man and Starman features, I can only encourage you on with this project.

Plastic Man is...different. What can I say? I had read that Len Wein would be playing it very straight, so it surprised me very much by looking so "cartoonish." What on earth did Len mean when he stated his intentions for Plas in The Comics Journal? I may very well have to read that article again.

Let me get one thing straight. Plastic Man is a very enjoyable strip. I expected something more in line with Batman in tone, but I cheerfully accept this incarnation of our hero as he is now. I just want another, more serious Plastic Man to be available for spots in DC COMICS PRESENTS and BRAVE AND BOLD.

Now for Starman. My first impression is that this character resembles Captain Marvel of the Marvel Comics Group. There is the hair flowing out the top of his mask, the arm-bands.

It can be argued that his outfit resembles that of Green Lantern in design, if not in color. There are other similarities to Green Lantern in this first story. His adventure is very reminiscent of the space-faring tales that we've seen in GL's magazine.

I am willing to let you take a good shot with your new pair of heroes. It is much too early to give a definite yes or no answer. Let's just see what future issues bring, okay?

Michael Burkhalter
P.O. Box 8938
Honolulu, Hawaii 96815

More than okay with us, Michael: all we ask is a chance to prove ourselves. As for clarifying ye editor's intentions with respect to Plas, perhaps it would be clearer to state that the plots are much in the straight Batman vein, but switched, of course, to Plas' pliable and peculiar world. We expect this will be the only Plas you'll be seeing for a while, as no plans exist for starring him in either of DC's team-up books.

Starman, on the other hand, is slated for an early appearance in DC COMICS PRESENTS. The Starman costume, by the way, is more a cousin of the Captain Marvel uniform than a descendant of it. Both are heavily influenced by an earlier Steve Ditko character—Captain Atom; Captain Marvel for reasons known only to the competition, and Starman because Steve's design sense is still working in much the same amazing fashion it was years ago—and completely unlike anyone else's.

• • • • •

Dear People.

This letter is penned in warning. I am a long-time worshipper at the altar of Jack Cole, the inimitable genius behind the original exploits of my beloved Plastic Man. A genius, I might add, whose creation has suffered unspeakable (to say nothing of unprintable, at least in a family publication) indignities at the hands of every writer trying to ape in-a-class-by-itself style. I hereby threaten you with various fates worse than psoriasis if you don't give the long-suffering Plas the attention and craft he so richly deserves!

Seriously, though, just avoid the obvious pitfalls (heavy handedness, easy one liners in the place of genuine wit, etc.) and the rest should come easily enough. After all, this is a pretty pliable strip.

Instead of apologizing for that easy one-liner, I'll move on to the other new kid on the block: Starman. Very impressive debut—the character is visually exciting and Steve Ditko accounted for himself like the pro he is. Paul Levitz, a writer who I'll admit has seldom caught my fancy, turned out a truly amazing job in the face of such obstacles as a nine-page story length (not many of the new generation of comics writers seem so admirably at home in such cramped quarters) and the need to make a hero's character accessible to the reader while leaving him a relative "man of mystery."

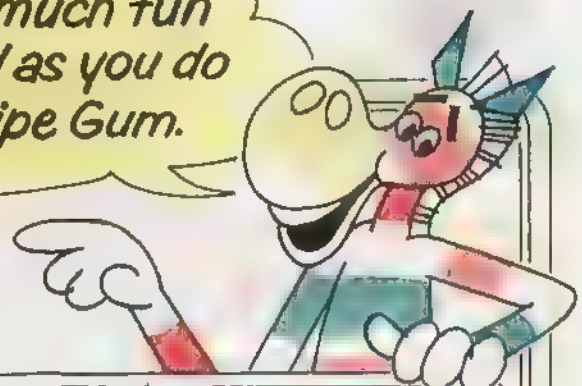
It looks like the newest incarnation of ADVENTURE is shaping up to be one heck of a contender, even if you did kick out good old Deadman. Count me in for the duration.

Kent G. Orlando
4336 Prescott Road
Nashville, Tenn. 37204

• • • • •

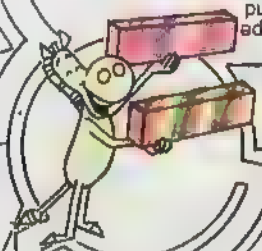
NEXT MONTH: Starman sets out on a journey across solar systems, in search of a life near and dear to him...while Plastic Man has his elastic hands full against the larceny of LOWBROW. -PL

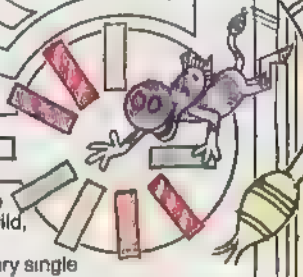
Hey Kids, have as much fun in Fruit Stripe Land as you do chewing Fruit Stripe Gum.



Q: There are two delicious Fruit Stripe Gums to choose from. What are they?

A: Fruit Stripe Regular and Fruit Stripe Bubble Gum.





Q: Why do we put all those wild, colorful, fruity stripes on every single stick?

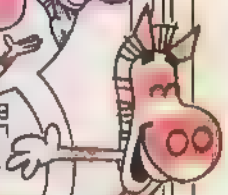
A: To show you that deeeee-lic-ous "fruity Fruit Stripe Flavor.

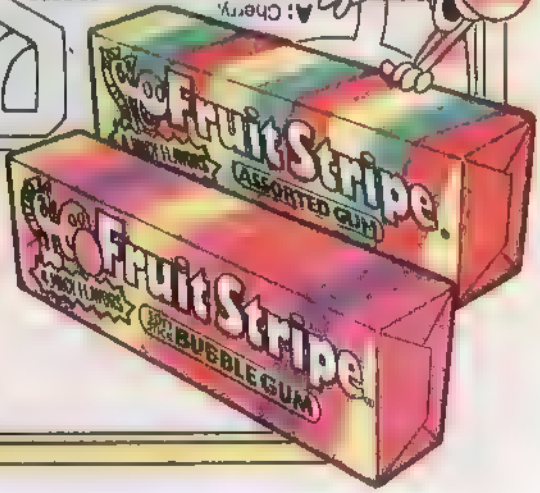
Q: There's a whole herd of flavors inside every pack. How many can you find?

A: Lemon, Orange, Cherry, Lime, Grape and Bubble Gum flavor, too.

Q: What are the four different kinds of big, juicy, easy-to-blow bubbles?

A: Cherry, Grape, Lemon and Bubble Gum.





It sure was fun galloping through Fruit Stripe Land with you

Regular and Bubble Gum

Fruit Stripe Gum

means

Fruit Stripe Fun

Remember How Many Times You Felt LEFT OUT

Because You Were BROKE!

Places the gang was going and you couldn't. They all had money for the movies, games, hamburgers and soft drinks . . . all of them except you.

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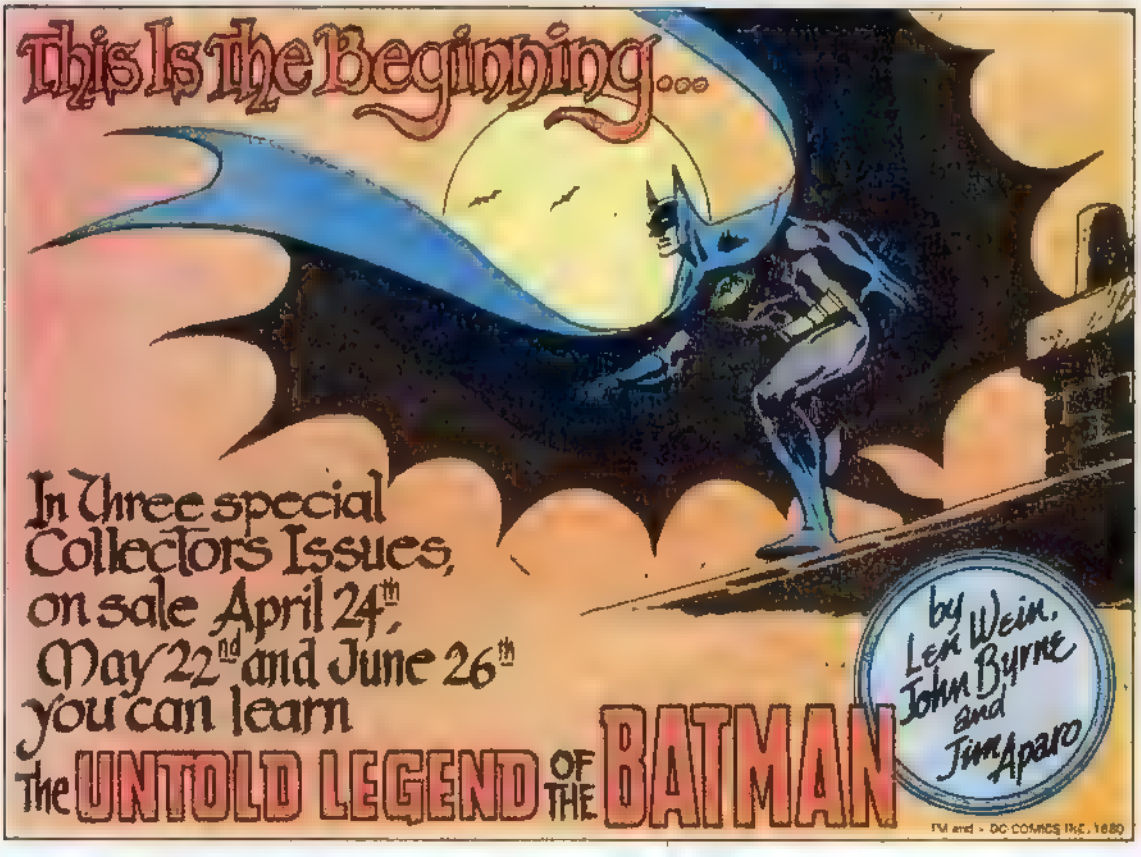
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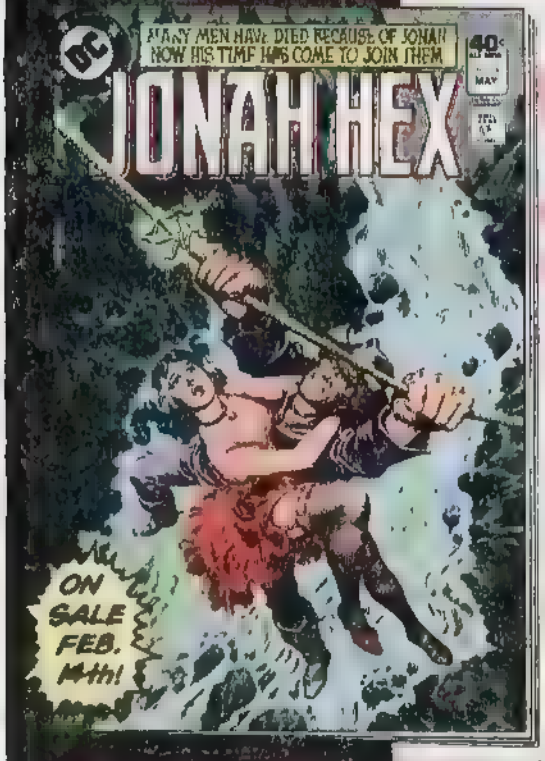

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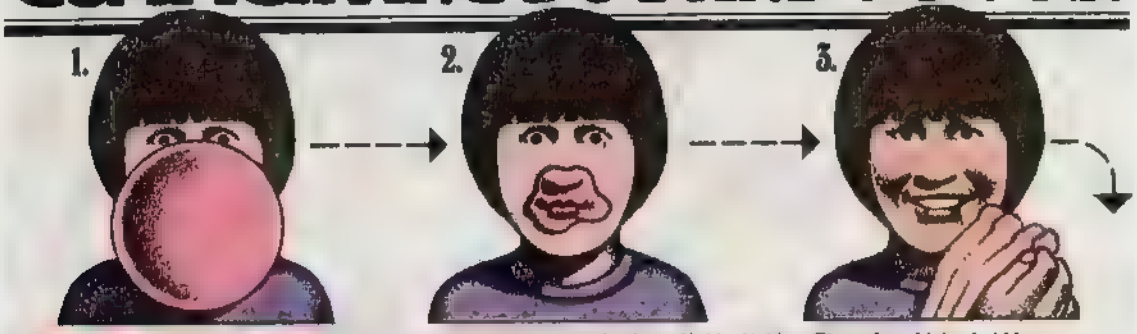
STARMAN
CAN NONE OF YOU FOOLS DO AS I BID--OR SHOW ENOUGH WIT TO HIRE SOMEONE WHO CAN?
I MUST KNOW STARMAN'S SECRET!
WHATEVER THE SOURCE OF HIS POWERS, LORD PROTECTOR OSWIN, IT IS HIDDEN FAR TOO WELL FOR ANY MAN TO DISCOVER!
ONE THING ALONE WE MAY DO FOR YOU, SIR AND MASTER. WE SHALL PREVENT THAT POWER FROM CONTESTING YOURS EVER AGAIN!
VERY WELL THEN, DO IT! MY COMMAND IS SIMPLE...
STARMAN MUST DIE!
PAUL LEVITZ WRITER/CREATOR
STEVE DITKO PENCILLER/DESIGNER
ROMEO TANGHAL INKER/EMBELLISHER
Gaspar LETTERER
ADRIENNE COLORIST
LEN WEIN - EDITOR

ONCE THEY WERE PART OF A LIVING WORLD, HEART OF A MIGHTY CIVILIZATION...NOW THEY ARE MERELY FRAGMENTS, ASTEROIDS CIRCLING AN EVER-COLDER STAR...
...BUT ONE OF THEIR NUMBERLESS NUMBER STILL HARBORS LIFE...
...AS THE CRYSTALLINE CENTER OF STARMAN'S OPERATIONS...
PERFECT SHOT, STARMAN!
YOU HAD TO MASTER DOZENS OF WEAPONS WHEN YOU WERE WITH IMPERIAL SECURITY, JEDIAH--
--YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT AIM ALWAYS GETS BETTER WITH PRACTICE!
EVEN WITH A NATURAL SKILL LIKE MY SOLAR BLASTS!
DON'T CONGRATULATE YOURSELF SO SOON, MY FRIEND. ALL THE ACCURACY IN THE COSMOS DOES NO GOOD WHILE I CAN PARRY YOUR EVERY EFFORT WITH THESE REFLECT-SHIELDS.
ONLY ONE WAY TO ANSWER THAT, JEDIAH!
PRACTICE--THAT'S IT!
IF YOU WA--
ARRRG!
ACTUALLY, THE ANSWER I HAD IN MIND WAS A RICOCHET!
SOLUTIONS TO YOUR TRUE PROBLEMS ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE SO EASILY FOUND, LAD!
GLOOMY AS EVER, EH, MN'TORR?
2

CONTINUED ON THE PAGE FOLLOWING

GUMFIGHTING DO'S AND DON'TS.



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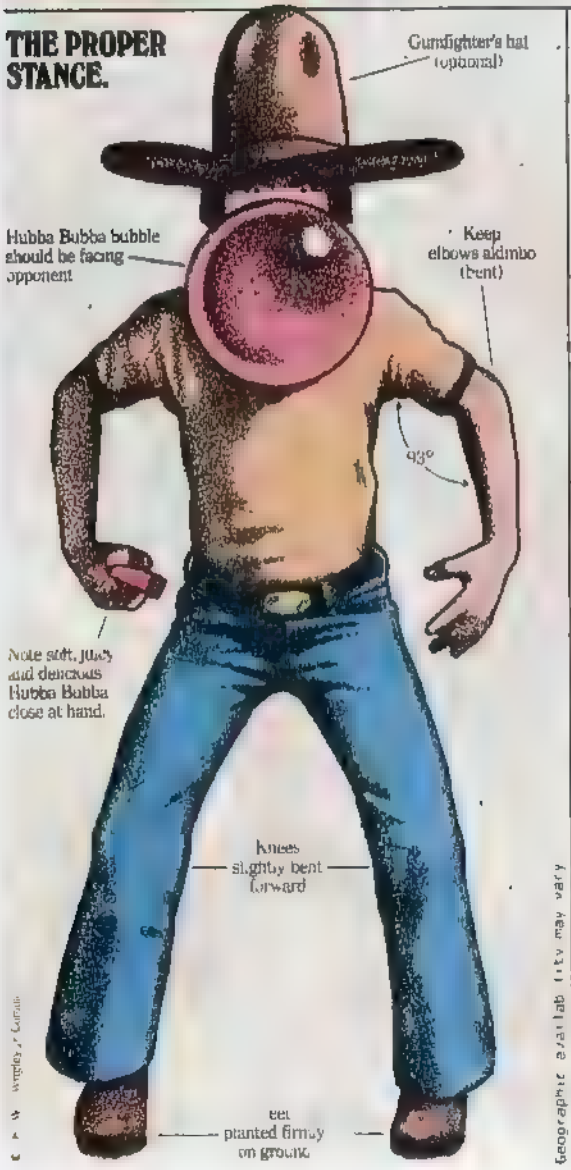
THE PROPER STANCE.


Gumfighter's hat (optional)
Hubba Bubba bubble should be facing opponent
Keep elbows akimbo (bent)
90°
Note soft, juicy and delicious Hubba Bubba close at hand.
knees slightly bent forward
feet planted firmly on ground

YOUR SIZE IS NOT IMPORTANT.

The size of your bubble is. And that means choosing the right bubble gum —Hubba Bubba. Because when it comes to great, big, fat bubbles, nothing sizes up to a Hubba Bubba bubble.

ACCEPT NO SUBSTITUTES.

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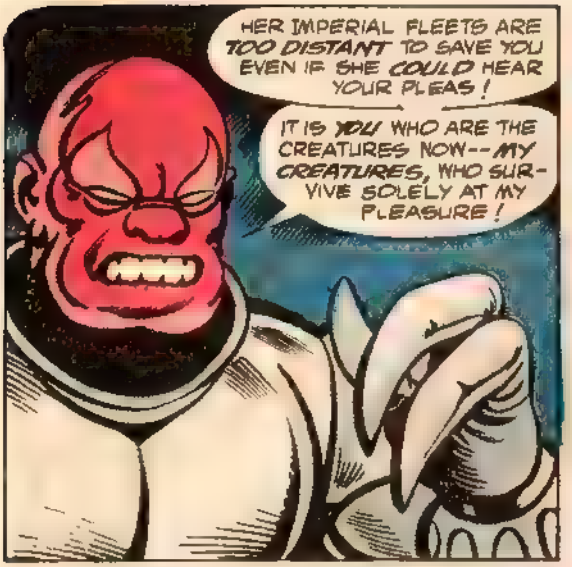
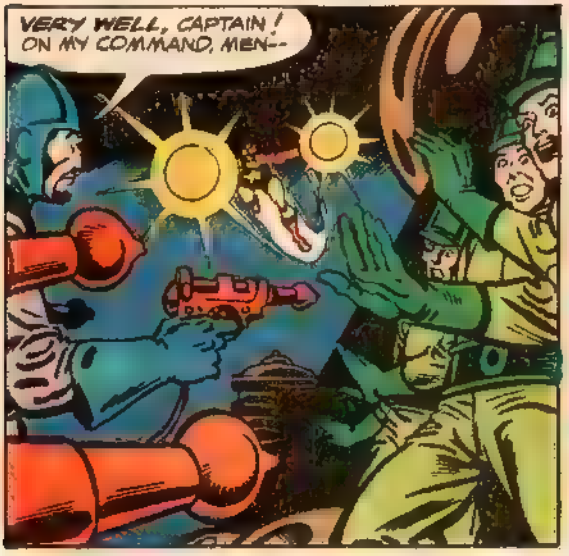
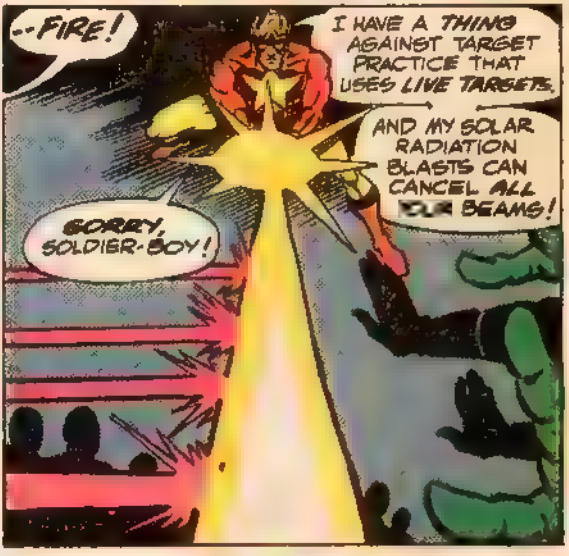
OR DO YOU KNOW SOMETHING WE DON'T ?
BOTH YOU AND JEDIAH RIKANE HAVE CAUSE TO REMEMBER THAT I KNOW MANY THINGS...
BUT THIS IS SIMPLY A MATTER OF KNOWING YOU.
GAZE AT THE IMAGE MY STAFF IS CASTING...
WHY, THAT'S AKADAMÉ--THE TRAINING WORLD FOR MERCHANT SPACEMEN !
ONCE AGAIN YOU EXCLAIM KNOWLEDGE WE ALL SHARE !
MORE TO THE POINT, WHAT IS WRONG WITH THIS IDYLLIC SCENE ?
THAT--THAT'S OSWIN'S PRIVATE FLEET--AND IT'S SLICING THE TRAINING CRAFT TO PIECES !
AND THERE ISN'T AN IMPERIAL WARCRAFT IN PARSECS OF AKADAMÉ !
WHICH MEANS SAVING AKADAMÉ IS UP TO US, RIGHT ?
WELL, I USED TO BE A PATRON OF AKADAMÉ WHEN I WAS PRINCE GAVYN---
--AND I WON'T LET ALL THOSE DONATIONS GO TO WASTE !

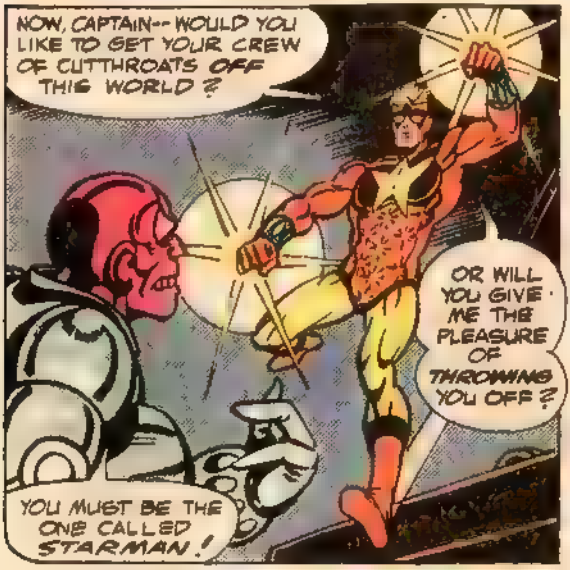
AN INSTANT LATER, FLASHING THROUGH THE VOID LIKE A COMET IN THE NIGHT SKY...
FUNNY... IF I WAS STILL PRINCE GAVYN, I WOULD HAVE HEARD OF THIS AFTER THE FIGHTING WAS LONG OVER!
AND ONLY THEN IF SOMEONE WAS TRYING TO TALK ME INTO PAYING FOR THE REPAIRS!
BUT NOW I CAN USE MY SOLAR POWERS TO--
HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE--?
MY JOB, STARMAN.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO CONVINCED ME THERE'S MORE TO LIFE THAN SKULKING AROUND DARK ALLEYS, TRYING TO KEEP THE IMPERIALS ON THEIR THRONES!
BUT UP TO NOW, ALL I'VE DONE IS POLISH OUR LIVING QUARTERS!
IT'S LONG PAST TIME I SAW SOME ACTION!
YOU'VE DONE FAR MORE THAN POLISH, JEDIAH...
...BUT THAT MAKES ME EVEN GLADDER YOU'RE TAGGING ALONG! THANKS, FRIEND!
WHILE HIGH OVER AKADAMÉ, A HYPERSPACE PORTAL SHIMMERS, AND OPENS ITS AWESOME PASSAGE TO NOWHERE...
...TEARING THE VERY FABRIC OF SPACE, LONG ENOUGH TO ALLOW A SINGLE STARSHIP THROUGH.
BUT NOT ALL STARSHIPS ARE CREATED EQUAL--LEAST OF ALL THIS DREADNOUGHT, PRIZE OF THE LORD PROTECTOR OSWIN'S FLEET...
NOR, IN THE EYES OF ITS CAPTAIN, ARE ALL MEN CREATED EQUAL...
...LEAST OF ALL, HIMSELF!!
BY THE EMPRESS--WHAT SORT OF CREATURE IS THAT?
SWEAR NOT BY YOUR PUNY EMPRESS, HUMAN!
4

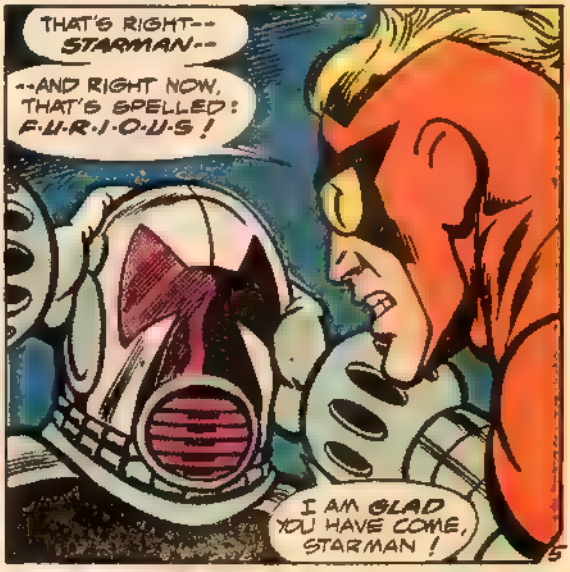

HER IMPERIAL FLEETS ARE TOO DISTANT TO SAVE YOU EVEN IF SHE COULD HEAR YOUR PLEAS!
IT IS YOU WHO ARE THE CREATURES NOW--MY CREATURES, WHO SURVIVE SOLELY AT MY PLEASURE!

LISTEN TO CAPTAIN KRYDD, FOOLS!
WASTE WORDS NOT ON THEM, MY SOLDIERS...
FOR IT IS MY PLEASURE THAT THEY DIE!


VERY WELL, CAPTAIN! ON MY COMMAND, MEN--


--FIRE!
I HAVE A THING AGAINST TARGET PRACTICE THAT USES LIVE TARGETS.
AND MY SOLAR RADIATION BLASTS CAN CANCEL ALL BEAMS!
SORRY, SOLDIER-BOY!


NOW, CAPTAIN--WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET YOUR CREW OF CUTTHROATS OFF THIS WORLD?
OR WILL YOU GIVE ME THE PLEASURE OF THROWING YOU OFF?
YOU MUST BE THE ONE CALLED STARMAN!


THAT'S RIGHT--STARMAN--
--AND RIGHT NOW, THAT'S SPELLED: F·U·R·I·O·U·S!
I AM GLAD YOU HAVE COME, STARMAN!

FOR ALL THIS HAS BEEN ARRANGED-- ESPECIALLY FOR YOU!
WHAT--??
DO NOT FEIGN SURPRISE, STARMAN, YOU HAVE INTERFERED WITH LORD PROTECTOR OGWIN--
--DID YOU TRULY THINK YOU COULD LONG SURVIVE SUCH FOOLISHNESS?
JUST WATCH ME, CAPTAIN!
I AM... AND I SEE YOUR VAUNTED SOLAR BLASTS HAVE PROVEN USELESS AGAINST MY ALL-POWERFUL THERMIC ARMOR!
YET I THINK MY MISSILES SHALL FARE BETTER!
SEE, MY SOLDIERS-- LORD OGWIN WAS RIGHT!
HE CAN ABSORB OUR ENERGY BEAMS--
--BUT HE CAN ONLY PROTECT HIMSELF FROM PROJECTILES BY MELTING THEM ONE BY ONE!
WHICH INSURES THAT SOME WILL HIT!
IT'S NOT THE FIRST HITS THAT COUNT, CAPTAIN, IT'S WHO GETS IN THE LAST--
--UNHHH!
BOAST ON, STARMAN AND WASTE YOUR FINAL BREATH!
UHH--HE'S NOT KIDDING!
GOTTA BREAK FREE FAST-- OR I'M THROUGH!
BUT SUDDENLY...
CAPTAIN KRYDD-- LOOK!
A SMALL STARSHIP IS ATTACKING!

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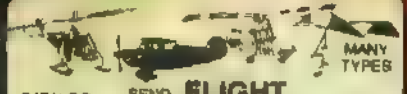

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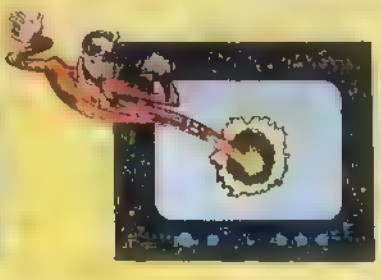

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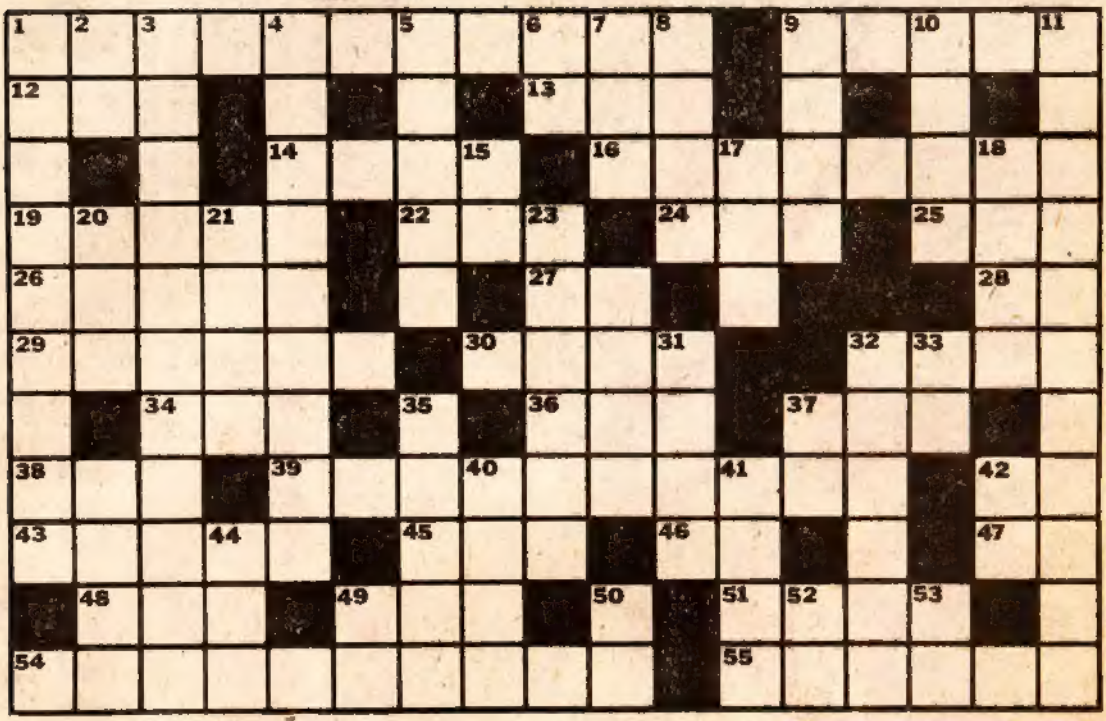
NO MATTER-- WHAT ?
IT'S ATTACKING ME NOW ?
WHICH BUYS ME PRECIOUS TIME, CAPTAIN !
THEN LET THE FOOL PAY FOR HIS PURCHASE-- WITH HIS LIFE !
KA-WHAM
JEDIAH !
JUST HOLD THAT SLAG HEAP TOGETHER A FEW MORE SECONDS, JEDIAH ! I'M COMING !
I'M TRYING, STARMAN, BUT--
BUT ME NO BUTTS, JEDIAH--
I HAVE YOU !!
THANKS FOR THE SAVE, CHUM ! SORRY ABOUT LOSING YOUR SHIP !
NO, MY FRIEND--I THANK YOU-- --FOR THIS PILE OF WRECKAGE IS EXACTLY WHAT I NEED !
NOW, CAPTAIN--LET'S SEE HOW DANGEROUS YOUR FANCY ARMOR REALLY IS--
--ONCE I ADD ANOTHER LAYER TO IT !
WHU--?!?
IT'S RAINING MOLTEN METAL !
ONLY WHERE MY SOLAR POWERS MELTED JEDIAH'S SHIP, SOLDIER !
AND NEXT IT WILL RAIN ON YOU--

--UNLESS YOU AND ALL YOUR FELLOWS GET OFF THIS PLANET-- NOW!
RUN BACK TO OSWIN, CHURL! TELL HIM HIS LITTLE TRAP HAS FAILED--
--THEN SEE HOW HE REWARDS YOU ALL!
DON'T BOTHER CHASING THEM, STARMAN!
YEAH-- THEY TURNED TAIL THE MINUTE YOU STOPPED, CAPTAIN KRYDD!
HE CAN TAKE CARE OF THEM NOW!
IN THAT CASE, ENJOY YOURSELVES! BYE!
YOU HELPED HIM, MISTER-- AND HE SEEMED TO KNOW YOU!
C'MON-- SPILL IT-- YOU MUST KNOW!
K-KNOW WHAT, LAD?
WHO IS STARMAN?
Tsk, Tsk--DON'T PRESS THE MAN SO, BOYS!
WANT A LIFT, JEDIAH?
DO I EVER! YOU'RE JUST IN TIME, STARMAN... AS ALWAYS!
Uh, ONE QUESTION, MY FRIEND?
YES, JEDIAH?
WHAT IN THE SEVEN SUNS AM I RIDING IN?
OH, IT'S JUST A PLASTI-BUBBLE I MOLDED TO GIVE YOU ENOUGH PROTECTION AND AIR TO MAKE IT HOME ALIVE!
IN THAT CASE, COULD YOU PLEASE HURRY UP?
IT'S ALREADY GETTING STUFFY IN HERE!
NEXT ISSUE! AND ONLY ONE SHALL SURVIVE...?
ON SALE MAR. 27!

THE DC FEATURE PAGE



ACROSS:

1. Member of the Doom Patrol
9. _____MEN
12. "Much_____About Nothing"
13. Order at a pub
14. What a tenant pays
16. Kryptonian foe of Supergirl
19. "Once upon _____"
22. Nickname for Rokk Krinn
24. Dah's Morse Code partner
25. Champ who battled Superman
26. Mr. Schwartz
27. Unionized Conduit (abbr.)
28. Pratt or Desmond
29. Robotman might need this
30. Super-powered foe of Captain Marvel
32. Barr or Nassar
34. Dog-raters (abbr.)
36. "Mama_____!"
37. Tool for Colletta
38. Cancelled In Concert (abbr.)
39. Metamorpho
42. Homeworld of the Guardians
43. #26 Across does this
45. Member of #9 Across
46. Artist Barry
47. Time for Tick-Tock Tyler (abbr.)
48. Airport abbreviation
49. Mr. Oda
51. Hammer-wielding Marvelite
54. The Scarlet Speedster
55. Jack C._____

DOWN:

1. Johnny Cloud
2. Letter-writer Via
3. Home town of Grodd
4. Old ACTION COMICS feature
5. Colletta
6. Martha Kent
7. Word with STAR or AMERICAN
8. Require
9. What #9 Across do when exposed to heat
10. Aquagirl
11. Mermaid from Atlantis
16. "Letters_____the Batman"
17. Mr. Greene
18. Superman foe: Am_____
20. Alien GL: Katma_____
21. Heat Wave, a.k.a._____Rory
23. King Kull is leader of them
31. Selina Kyle loves them
32. TV Captain Marvel's guardian
33. "Superman_____Action"
35. It runs while you're in a taxi
37. Jonathan Kent
40. Opposite of maxi
41. Legend
42. "_____no!"
44. Outdoor game
49. Initials of DC's puzzle-maker
50. All right
52. Part of The Joker's laugh
53. The B&O, for example (abbr.)

For the solution to this and other puzzles appearing on the DC Feature Pages, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to BOB ROZAKIS—PUZZLES, DC Comics Inc., 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10019.

IT'S A BIRD, IT'S A PLANE, IT'S THE ANSWER MAN!

Q: If *Robin* is in the *Super Friends*, is he also in the *Justice League*?—Tommy Bumgardner. *A*: No.

Q: How much is *JIMMY OLSEN* #94 worth?—Terry Boles. *A*: 40¢ in good condition.

Q: Which *DC* comic do you like best?—Chris Khalaf. *A*: Whichever one I'm going to read next.

Q: Does *Sinestro* have to charge his power ring?—Arthur DeMatteis. *A*: Yes.

Q: Do the rings of all the members of the Green Lantern Corps have the same weakness?—Timmy Harris. *A*: Yes, anything yellow.

Q: How much are *LOIS LANE* #'s 130, 131 and 132 worth?—Wilton Towe. *A*: 20¢ each in good condition.

Q: I have 300 comic books with no place to keep them. How do you keep your 10,000 comic books in order?—David Ehlinger. *A*: I have them in numerical order in piles, separated by title. I also have an entire room to keep them in...something you'll have to plan on when you're old enough to buy a house.

Q: When the Kandorians were in the bottle, why didn't they have super-powers?—Chuck Osborn. *A*: Because the bottle had an artificial red sun and artificial gravity which matched that of Krypton.

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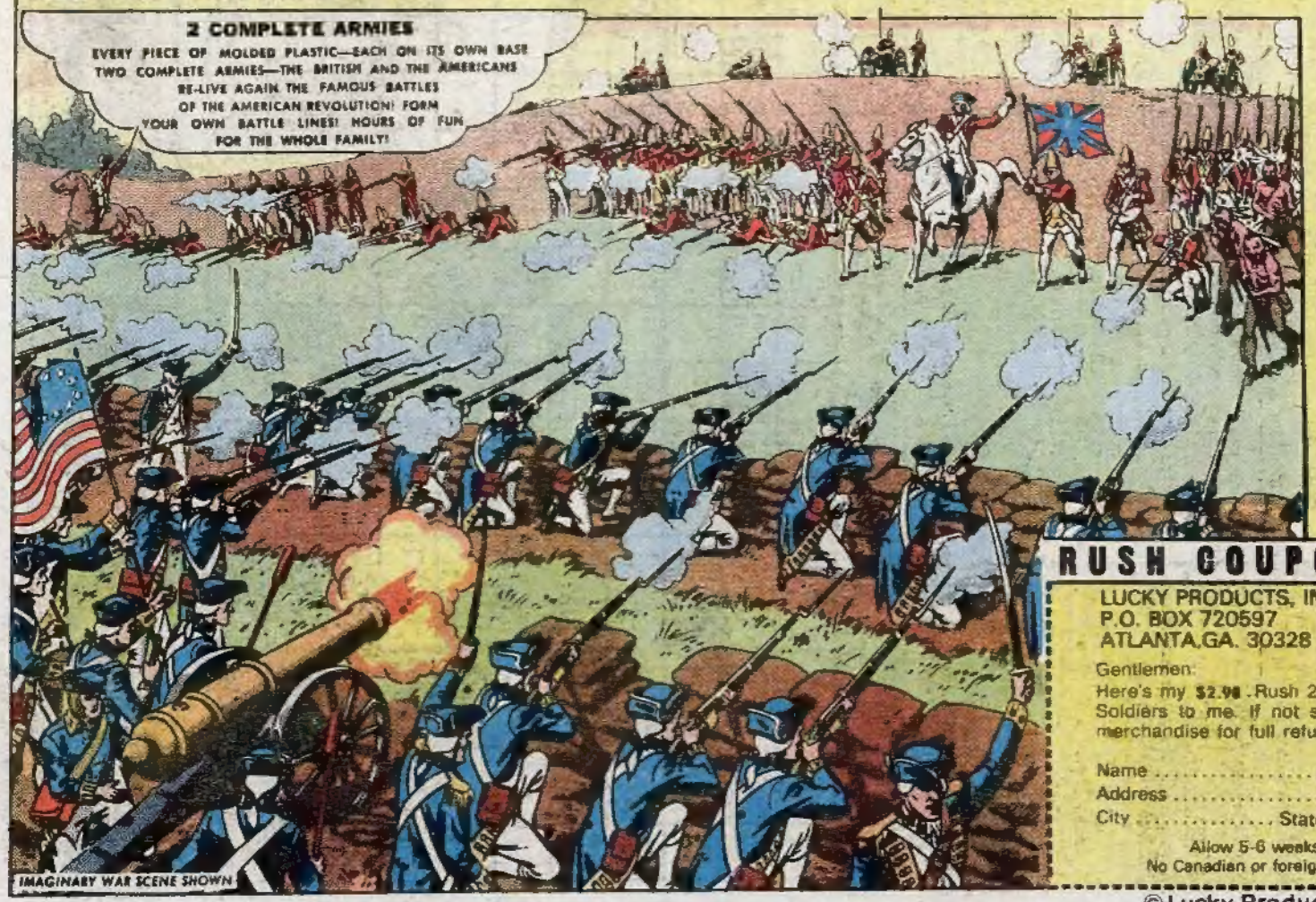
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